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Tynemouth**

**Newcastle upon
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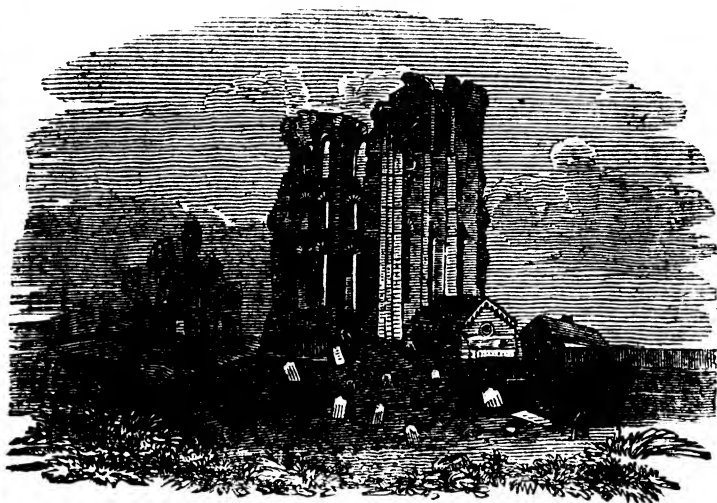
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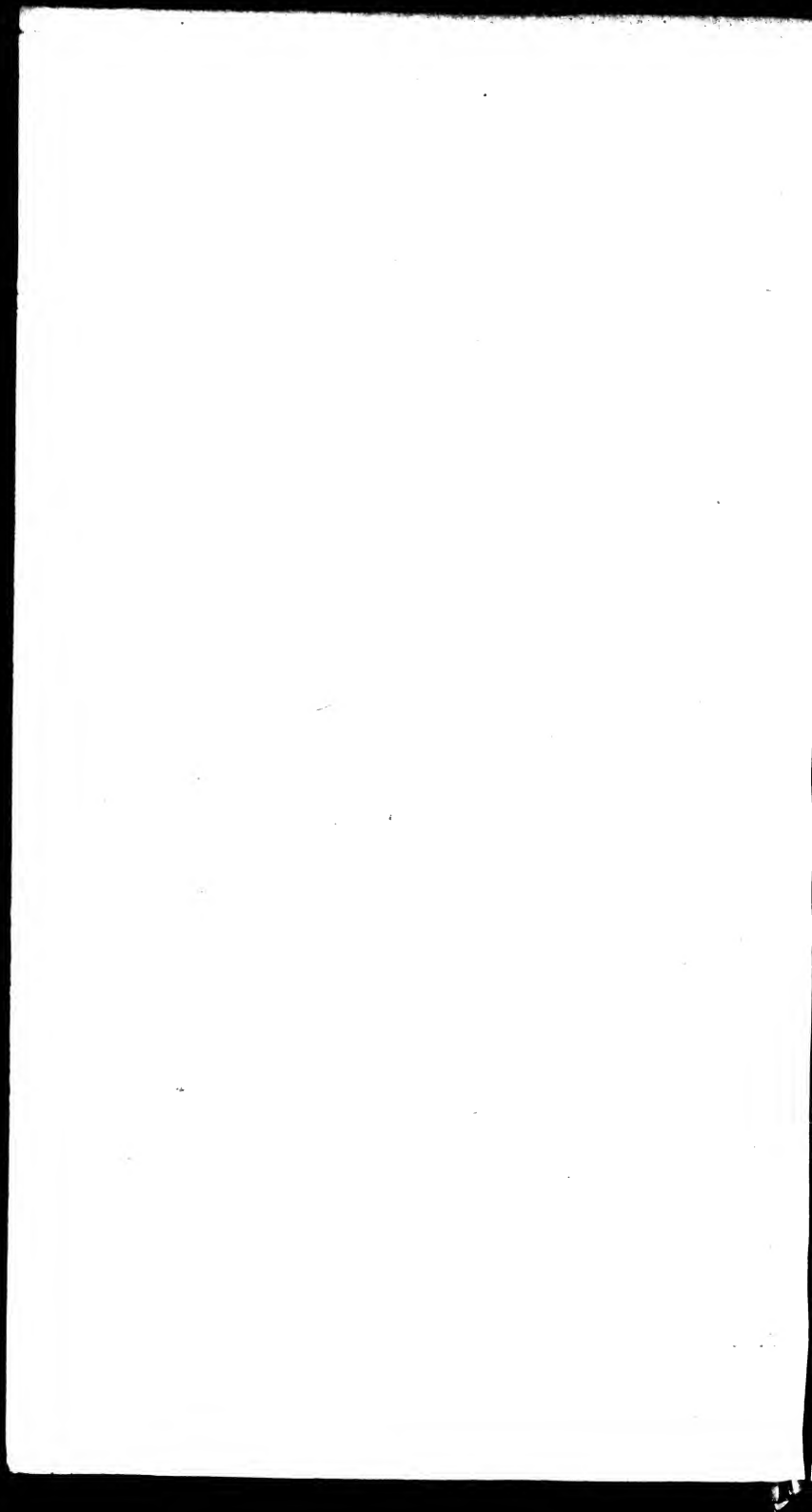
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HISTORY
OF
TYNEMOUTH,
Its Priory & Castle,
AND
STRANGER'S GUIDE
By Railway or Turnpike,
TO PLACES OF INTEREST IN THE VICINITY OF THIS
JUSTLY CELEBRATED BATHING PLACE.

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 " Here health salubrious spreads her balmy wings,  
 And woos the sufferer to her saline springs;  
 And here the antiquarian strays around  
 The ruin'd abbey, and its sacred ground."  
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**Newcastle upon Tyne:**  
**W. & T. FORDYCE, PRINTERS & SHARE-BROKERS,**  
**DEAN STREET; & MYTON GATE, HULL.**



# History of Tynemouth, &c.

**TYNEMOUTH**, once the residence of kings and princes, is still a place of fashionable resort during the bathing season, and considered as one of the most convenient and delightful along the eastern coast.—As almost all strangers who visit this place proceed by Newcastle, before entering into a lengthened history of Tynemouth, we will take a cursory view of the traveller's journey, supposing him to set off from that town.)

## ROUTE BY THE RAILWAY.

On the 18th June, 1839, a railway was opened between Newcastle and Shields, by which, in about 20 minutes, the traveller is conveyed within a mile of Tynemouth. The Newcastle station is in Pilgrim-street, and behind it, on the south side of the gaol, the railway commences. It is about 7 miles long, and is intended to be a double line. There are only two slight curves in it—the radius of one being one mile and a half, and the other one mile; the gradients, too, are very favourable, being 1 in 200, and that but for a short distance. The timber used in the construction of the bridges, and upon the line, has undergone Kyan's anti-dry-rot process. The rails are laid upon beams of timber 12 inches broad and 6 inches thick. The beams are spliced together at the ends, and fastened with oak treenails. Nearly every 7 feet are cross-beams of oak, dove-tailed into the longitudinal beams and treenailed, forming a strong frame-work of timber from one end of the line to the other. From the numerous waggon-ways, carriage-ways, &c. which intersect the line, between 30 and 40 bridges and culverts have been erected under or over it, adding much to the expence of the undertaking.

Starting from the station at Newcastle, the traveller is immediately on the Pandon-dean embankment, 70 feet in height. On his right is New Pandon-street, and a little further on is Pandon, a place stated to have been the residence of the kings of Northumberland, being well protected by the Roman wall on the north, and the river Tyne on the south. Passing the tunnel under the

turnpike at Ridley Villas, you reach the Ouseburn viaduct, a stupendous bridge 920 feet long, of 9 arches, 5 of wood and 4 of stone—the former 116 feet span, the latter 45 feet span. The height of the bridge up to the railway 108 feet. The railway from hence to Wallsend, runs nearly parallel with the course of the Roman wall, as described by antiquarians. Near the village of Wallsend have been found various antiquated remains, Roman coins, &c., and within a few yards of the railway, is the celebrated Russell's Wallsend Colliery. You now approach the Willington-dean viaduct, of similar construction to the one at Ouseburn. It is 1050 feet long, and 82 feet high; and the span of the arches 126 feet. Passing this Herculean structure, you reach the Howden embankment, 40 feet high; and arriving at the numerous works of Percy-main colliery, you have an extensive prospect of the surrounding country. On the south is the village of Jarrow, where the venerable Bede wrote his Ecclesiastical History, and in 735 died; the river, too, presents a busy scene of traffic and commercial enterprise. Passing Chirton on your left, you enter a deep cut under the ropery of Messrs. Hansell & Sons, and reach the termination at Little Bedford-street, North Shields, from whence you can be conveyed to Tynemouth in elegantly constructed omnibuses.

#### BY THE TURNPIKE.

Should the traveller proceed by the turnpike-road, after passing through the bustle at the Quayside, he proceeds by the New Road, where, on his left hand, he will see an excellent institution, called the Keelman's Hospital, supported by those employed in the carrying of coals in keels upon the river Tyne, for their mutual support in sickness and old age. A little further on stands the Royal Jubilee School, a large and elegant building, supported by voluntary subscription for the gratuitous education of the children of the poor. At the eastern end of this road is a neat little church, called St. Ann's, being a chapel of ease to the church of All Saints. At the foot of Ouseburn-bank, at a little dis-



stance on the right, is an extensive and ancient burying-ground, called the Ballast Hills, where a number of persons of local eminence are interred. Passing through Byker-gate, the traveller has an extensive prospect of the surrounding country ; towards the north is Heaton Hall, an elegant mansion, the property of Sir Matthew White Ridley, Bart., and until you reach Wallsend, little else is to be seen but clouds of smoke, issuing from extensive manufactories on the banks of the Tyne, and from the engines, &c. at the mouths of the innumerable coal-pits about the district. Wallsend has a plain neat parish church, passing which, and at the foot of Rosehill, should the stranger be proceeding along at night, he will be surprised at the immense burning mountains, reaching, as it were, to the clouds, being suddenly brought upon his view. On enquiry he will be informed, that these are immense masses of refuse coal from the pits, which, by way of getting rid of them, are allowed continually to burn. On looking towards the right, the traveller will observe the stupendous work, Willington-bridge, belonging the Newcastle and Shields railway : on passing along the road, he will have observed an oblique arch, and extensive embankments and cuttings, which are parts of the same undertaking. Before reaching Chirton, there is a neat and commodious building on the left, called West Chirton Hall, the residence of John Robson, Esq. Chirton, a small village on the turnpike-road, is within two miles of Tynemouth. Passing round the corner at Chirton-gate, the traveller has in front view the pleasant and comfortable looking mansion, Chirton-cottage, interesting to the traveller as being the residence of the celebrated Gardiner, and the place in which he wrote that severe and famous stricture on the corporation of Newcastle in 1665, entitled, " England's Grievances Discovered ;" the building is plain and neat ; on the north it has a lively view of the turnpike-road ; and on the south the busy scenes near the mouth of the Tyne and the pleasant banks in the county of Durham ; it is now the residence of Mr. John Lowrey, an eminent solicitor in North Shields. On the

right, at the distance of a few yards, is the mansion of John Collingwood, Esq., brother of the late Admiral Lord Collingwood, and was built from a plan of the celebrated Sir John Vanburgh. On reaching Rosella Place, you have a view of a modern cemetery, or burying-ground, laid out with great taste—the entrance has been much admired for its chaste architecture. A little further on, on the south side of the turnpike, stands the Roman Catholic Chapel, an elegant Gothic edifice, adjoining which is a handsome stone house, occupied by the officiating priest, the Rev. Thomas Gillow, a gentleman held in general estimation, without reference to religious opinions. On the opposite side of the road is the parochial Church of Tynemouth. Tynemouth Lodge, late the residence of W. Linskill, Esq. who was High Sheriff of Northumberland in 1808, is situated a little further on the road; and passing Tynemouth House of Correction on the left, and Percy Square on the right, you arrive at the village of Tynemouth, where we will leave our traveller in the full enjoyment of its salubrious air until the following day.

### TYNEMOUTH.

The parish of Tynemouth forms the south-east corner of Northumberland. It is bounded on the north by Earsdon parish, on the west by the parishes of Long Benton and Wallsend, on the south by the river Tyne, and on the east by the sea. It is rich in coal, ironstone, and magnesian limestone. Its principal point of population and manufactures is North Shields. On the passing of the municipal reform bill it was made a borough, and is now represented by the Right Hon. Sir Charles E. Grey. As a particular account of the village of Tynemouth is embodied in its general history in the concluding pages of this pamphlet, it will perhaps be better at present to give a sketch of the surrounding places of interest.

### NORTH SHIELDS.

This town is about a mile west of Tynemouth; and, after the commencement of the late war, rose to consider-

able importance. It contains about 25,000 inhabitants, has several well-built streets, a public library, news-room, theatre, and the usual number of places for public worship contained in towns of a similar size. Dockway Square is the principal promenade for the fashionables of Shields, and the stranger will be highly gratified by a lounge along the banks in front of Dockway Square and Toll Square. Here you have an extensive prospect of the river Tyne, and the number of ships at anchor in harbour present from this eminence the appearance of a dense forest. Should the wind veer round, having been for some time N. E., what an exciting scene is presented to your view! An hundred vessels moving from their various berths—the heaving of the anchor—the yo-ho! of the men—the rough voice of the captain—the unravelling of the rigging, and the unfurling of the sails, are the never-failing signals of a fair wind, with buoyant hopes of a prosperous voyage. The numberless steamers running up and down to conduct the vessels to sea, enliven the scene, while the columns of smoke rising from the various manufactories in the lower part of the town shew the extent of the place and the importance of its trade. At the Low Lights are extensive iron-works, the property of Messrs. B. C. Tyzack and T. S. Dobinson; they are the patentees of an improved windlass, called Tyzack and Dobinson's Patent Windlass, which has become in very general use. They are also extensive government contractors for supplying her Majesty's navy with anchors, chains, and cables; their excellent manufacture of which has gained them considerable celebrity; and Mr. Dobinson has been appointed Deputy High Admiral of the coast of Northumberland. There is also another extensive iron manufactory, under the firm of Messrs. Pow and Fawcus. There is not so much ship-building here as formerly, but other branches of trade have continued to flourish. Thomas Young, Esq. of the firm of Young and Co., of South Shields, the most extensive shipowners and shipbuilders in the north of England, has made considerable purchases of property along the river-side at North Shields, where he contem-

plates erecting a spacious quay, which will not be inferior to any in the kingdom ; and if this should be proceeded with, the prosperity of the town will be considerably increased.

### SOUTH SHIELDS

is situated on the south side of the river Tyne, directly opposite North Shields, and is a place of considerable extent and trade. At the mill-dam the extensive glass-works of Messrs. Shortridge, Sawyer, and Co. give employment to a number of workmen, and the chemical and glass-works at the west end of the town, belonging to Messrs. Cookson, Newcastle, are the largest in the north of England : ship-building is carried on here with success, and other manufactories of late years have considerably improved. Indeed there is perhaps no town in the united kingdom, that has rose to so much importance within the last few years as this town, owing to its having become the terminus of the Stanhope and Tyne and Brandling Junction Railways. A weekly newspaper has recently been commenced, entitled " The Tyne Pilot," and from the enterprising spirit of the conductors, bids fair to be a successful undertaking. We may also add, that South Shields contributes more revenue to the government, than any other place in the united kingdom, except the metropolis, and two or three other of the most opulent towns. The communication between North and South Shields is principally carried on by a Steam Ferry.

### MARSDEN ROCK.

The stranger at Tynemouth will easily find an opportunity of visiting this place, as parties of pleasure are going there from the haven almost daily. It is about three miles distant, and on a fine day will be found a pleasant sail. The rock is situated at a considerable distance from the land, and is much admired for its singular excavations. At a little distance is another rock, on the top of which is a green sward, which from its fineness is called the velvet bed : here parties of pleasure frequently take tea or other refreshments, which may be applied from a public-house near the place.

## MONK STONE.

Adjoining a farm-stead, called Monk-house, near the village of Monkseaton,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west by north from Tynemouth, stands the pedestal of an ancient cross, called the Monk Stone. This monument is of whinstone, and on the pedestal is inscribed—"O Horror to Kill a man For a Piges head." Tradition explains this motto by the story of a monk strolling from his monastery at Tynemouth to the house of one of the Delavals, who was out hunting at the time. Among other dishes preparing for his dinner, was a pig, which was coveted by the monk, and though informed that it was ordered purposely for Mr. Delaval's own eating, he cut off its head, and made the best of his way to the monastery. Delaval, on his return, being informed of the transaction, remounted his horse in pursuit of the offender, whom he overtook about a mile east of Preston, and so belaboured him with his staff, that he was hardly able to crawl to his cell. The monk dying within a year and a day, though, as the story goes, the beating was not the cause of his death, his brethren made it a handle to charge Delaval with murder; who, before he could get absolved, was obliged to make over to the monastery, the manor of Elswick, near Newcastle, and to set up an obelisk on the spot where he corrected the monk. Elswick was afterwards made the summer retreat of the priors of Tynemouth.

## CULLERCOATS.

All who visit Tynemouth make their daily rambles along Cullercoats' Sands; near which is a mineral spring, said to possess medicinal properties equal to some of the greatest celebrity. At the northern extremity of the sands is situated the village of Cullercoats. It is a small village, inhabited principally by fishermen; but having a few genteel houses, many respectable families, who prefer retirement, reside here during the bathing season in preference to Tynemouth.

## WHITLEY,

another retired village, half a mile north of Cullercoats, in the vicinity of which is East Percy Main Colliery. The works of the No. Shields Water Company are here.

## SEATON DELAVAL

is between 6 and 7 miles distant from Tynemouth. Here may be seen the ruins of the magnificent seat, built by Admiral Delaval, which, for dignity and grandeur, surpassed every other mansion in the north. It was built in the best style of that bold and extraordinary genius, Sir John Vanburgh. On the 3d January, 1822, this princely mansion was unfortunately destroyed by fire. Nothing entire remains of the first establishment of the Delaval family, except the chapel: it has undergone but few alterations, and this little venerable pile is acknowledged to be one of the purest and most perfect specimens of Norman architecture in the kingdom. Near the chapel a mausoleum was built by the late Lord Delaval, in memory of his son, who died about his 20th year. This pious edifice has been much admired for its elegance and simplicity. The portico, which is of the Doric order, bears a handsome pediment, with a triangular tympanum. A solemn cupola covers the centre. The interior is formed like a chapel; and underneath are strongly arched catacombs, founded upon a rock.

There is in the herald's office a very particular pedigree of the Delaval family, which commences at the time of the Norman conquest. At the decease of Edward Hussey Delaval, who died without issue, August 14, 1814, the Delaval estates, with their valuable royalties, descended to Sir Jacob Astley, Bart., of Malton Constable, Norfolk.

## HARTLEY,

a considerable village, situated neat the sea, and a little to the south of Seaton Delaval, is principally inhabited by workmen of the neighbouring collieries, and by fishermen. Lord Delaval made a small harbour here for the refuge of fishermen in storms. In December, 1765,

a woodcock was shot at this place, in the stomach of which was found a diamond of considerable value.

### SEATON SLUICE

is situated about half a mile north of Hartley: the principal object of curiosity here, is its haven, cut through a solid freestone rock, forming a harbour accessible with every wind, and a moorage secure against every storm. It is the gratuitous construction of the Delavals at different periods.

### BLYTH,

a small sea-port, advantageously situated on the south side of the river Blyth, is about nine miles from Tynmouth, and nearly two north of Seaton Sluice. The harbour here is very safe, even during the most tempestuous weather; and the dry dock, one of the best formed in the kingdom, is the greatest boast of the place.

The celebrated modern Hercules, Willam Carr, belonged to this place, and, when in his prime, was perhaps the strongest man in England. When only 17 years of age, he was 6 feet  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height, weight 16 stone, and could easily lift 7 or 8 cwt. While a youth, he could throw a half cwt., with a 4lb. weight tied to it, the distance of 24 feet, either behind or before him. On one occasion he went to Chester-le-Street, to try this feat against the noted Michael Downey; but the latter shrunk from the contest. At 30 years of age he was 6 feet 4 inches in height, and weighed 24 stone. He was often employed in repairing steam engines, and has sustained this hard labour 182 hours at a time, and after 12 hours rest, stood 120 hours longer. Five seamen being unable to carry an anchor weighing half a ton, and a piece of cable, Carr himself carried it over the sands to his father's shop. When a loaded coal-waggon chanced to slip off the rail, he would sometimes creep underneath, and lift it on again. He was invited to Seaton Delaval to fight Big Ben; but the fistic hero declined the combat, observing that he would rather receive a kick from a horse than a blow from such a hand. The Lords Tyrconnel and Strathmore accompanied Mendoza on a visit to Carr.

Lord Delaval had his likeness taken in his working habit, and which was afterwards removed to Gibside. He was an expert workman, and his harpoons were much celebrated. Many other anecdotes, equally marvellous, are related of this man but the above must serve the purpose of this small publication.

### WARKWORTH & CASTLE.

Warkworth is pleasantly seated on the south side of the river Coquet, about a mile from the sea, and 30 miles from Tynemouth. This delightful little town contains several genteel families, and is a most agreeable place of residence. It consists of three streets, in which are several modern-built houses, one of which was lately erected by J. Forster, Esq. of London, a native of Warkworth; the entrance hall is neatly laid out with marble from Brandenburg House, the residence of the late Queen Caroline. At the extremity of the town stands the proud fortress. The celebrated Castle of Warkworth, which has so long survived the vicissitudes of many revolving ages, is even now, although in ruins, a fine monument of ancient grandeur. It is very boldly situated on an eminence, and overlooks the river Coquet. It is not certainly known when this castle was built; from the circumstance of the Percy arms being put up in several parts of the building, some have supposed that it was erected by that family; but, by a slight inspection, it is easily perceived that they have been inserted into the walls at an after period. The present noble proprietor seems inclined to preserve this grand specimen of a baronial residence.

### WARKWORTH HERMITAGE.

This holy retreat is situated on the north bank of the Coquet, about half a mile west of the castle. The approach is kept in neat order, and still retains its original form. The steps, vestibule and chief apartment of the hermitage, are hewn out of the bosom of a freestone rock. The west end of the chapel is lighted by a window, formed of four conjoining circles. Above the inner door of the vestibule is a shield bearing the remains



of some arms, generally supposed to be the Bertram's. This lonely little hermitage has obtained great celebrity by the beautiful and interesting ballad of the *Hermit of Warkworth*, by Dr. Percy, who has attached to his poem many particulars respecting its antiquity, &c., to which we would refer our readers, observing, however, before parting with so interesting a subject, that this curious memorial of devotion, so venerable for its antiquity, and so interesting from the delightful solitude in which it is placed, is still much visited by strangers.

We might conduct our readers to many places along the coast of the highest interest, but fear we would be travelling too far from the place from which we set out. Bambrough Castle, besides its celebrity as an ancient fortress, is closely associated with the name of the benevolent Lord Crewe. Dunstanborough Castle, with its legendary tale of the "Wandering Knight"—the Fern Islands, the residence of the heroic Grace Darling, and Holy Island, both places of residence of that prince of saints, St Cuthbert, whose miracles here during life are only surpassed by those performed after his death, are all subjects which would interest any reader of taste, but who, however much we regret it, must refer to works of larger size and higher price.

TYNEMOUTH is advantageously seated on the ostium of the river Tyne, and is a place of great antiquity. The Britons, it is said, called it *Penbal Crag*, or the head of the rampier upon the rock.—That the Romans had buildings here, has been proved by the discovery of an altar & tablet, in 1783, 6 feet under ground, on the north side of the castle, where they had been buried in the foundation of some ancient building. They are in the possession of the London Society of Antiquaries.

Though the origin of the priory be both remote and uncertain, it appears that a small chapel of wood was erected here in the popular reign of Edwin king of Northumberland, who died in the year 633, and that his daughter Rosella took the veil in it. His successor,

St. Oswald, rebuilt it of stone. On account of the great number of illustrious persons who performed divine service in the oratory of the Virgin, great local sanctity was attributed to the place, and the illustrious dead were brought from various parts to be buried in it. The royal martyr, Oswin, its patron saint, King Edred, and Henry, hermit, of Coquet Island, were buried here; as afterwards were Malcolm king of Scotland, his son Prince Edward, and other distinguished persons. It was plundered and destroyed by the Danes, and refounded some time soon after the year 671. St. Herebald, the champion of St. John of Beverley, was a monk and abbot here. About the conclusion of the eighth century, this priory suffered severely from the ravages of the Danes, who afterwards returned, and reduced the sacred pile, with its religious inmates, to ashes. In 879, Halden, with his Northmen, massacred all the monks and nuns found in this place, which was levelled with the ground. So entirely did these reiterated ravages extinguish the light of Christianity in these parts, that the remembrance of King Oswin was utterly lost till the time of Tostig, Earl of Northumberland, when the saint appeared to Edmund the sexton, and revealed the place of his burial. The circumstance being told to Judith, the earl's wife, diligent search was made for the royal remains, which being discovered, were re-committed to the earth with great solemnity. The earl, according to Leland, rebuilt the monastery from the foundation. His successor, Waltheof, about 1074, gave it, with all its possessions, and St. Oswin's body, to the monks of Jarrow. Earl Albrey confirmed the grant to Jarrow; but both these houses were soon afterwards made cells of the church of Durham. In 1090, Earl Mowbray refounded Tynemouth, and filled it with Black Canons; and, out of enmity to the Bishop of Durham, made it a cell of St. Albans, in Hertfordshire. In his unsuccessful conspiracy to dethrone William Rufus, he converted the place into a fortress, which, after a siege of two months, was taken by storm. Mowbray escaped to Bambrough Castle, where also finding himself insecure,

he fled to the sanctuary here, but was dragged from the altar and imprisoned. In consequence of the injuries it received from this siege, it was rebuilt about 1110, in which year the remains of St. Oswin were regained from Jarrow. In 1121, the monks of Durham made an ineffectual attempt to recover it from the church of St. Albans. David, king of Scotland, spared it from the general devastation which he inflicted upon Northumberland, in consequence of its great sanctity, and of his receiving from its monks twenty-seven marks of silver. William Pigun, the thievish and gluttonous monk, who stole the common seal of St. Albans, and committed a forgery with it, was banished from that house to the cell at Tynemouth. His end, according to the honest but credulous Matthew Paris was miserable; and the monks who were near, after he had over-eaten and drank, distinctly heard a voice crying, "Take him, Satan! take him, Satan!"

In 1216, Ralph Gubium resigned his office of prior of Tynemoth—and, after this time, the following are the most remarkable features of its history:—

The churches of Eglingham, Norton, and Hartburn, were given to the monks for the purpose of mending their ale, and to enlarge their means of hospitality. The prior meditated a peace between England and Scotland, in 1244; and eleven years after, obtained a charter from Henry III. to hold a market in his villa and manor of Bewicke. He claimed the privilege of a market also at Tynemouth; but in a suit on that account, judgment was given against him in the King's Bench. The place, however, had certain immunities, which it annually asked of the judges itinerant, by some great public character, or by its bailiffs, at the "Chille" fountain in Gateshead, when they came from York; or at "Faurstanes," when they came from Cumberland. They returned the king's writ within their respective lordships, and were exempted from cornage by king John: several villages in Northumberland, however, paid cornage both to St. Alban's and to this house. Edward I. in

1299, restored them certain free customs, which the crown had deprived them of, and granted the prior to have all pleas concerning his men, lands, and tenements, to be pleaded and determined by his own justices, the king's justices not being permitted to enter his liberty. A fair, granted to the place in 1303, was revoked the next year, on the petition of the town of Newcastle. The prior caused a pillory to be erected in the village in 1307. King Edward II. and his favourite Gaveston, were at Tynemouth on Ascension-day, 1312, from whence they took shipping for Scarborough. A riotous band of Northumbrians, at the head of whom were Sir William de Middleton, knt. and Walter de Seleby, ravaged this house in 1316; but being apprehended, they were sent to London by shipping, and there tried, condemned, and hanged. The hospital of St. Leonard, at this place, is of uncertain foundation: it existed in 1320. Ruins of it are still traceable a little to the west of Tynemouth, on the road to Newcastle. The queen of Edward II. resided here some time, in 1322; as had also the queen of Edward I. in 1303. The monastery was plundered by a party of Scots, under the Earl of Murray, in 1389. Thomas Duke of Gloucester youngest son of King Edward III. having made a voyage to Persia, and sailed along the dangerous coasts of Denmark, Norway, and Scotland, landed at Tynemouth in 1391, where he was entertained for a few days. Cardinal Wolsey wrote to Lord Dacre, warden of the Marches, desiring him, "by all means and politike wayes which he could devise," to bring one Robert Lambert to justice, who, on account of murder, had taken sanctuary in the church of this monastery.

Robert Blakeney, prior, with fifteen monks and three novices, surrendered this monastery January 12, 1539. Its scite, with all its offices, were demised, March 9, in the same year, on a lease of 21 years, and at a yearly rent of £163 17s. to Sir Thomas Hilton. Its possessions were very large, having 27 villas in Northumberland, with their royalties, belonging to it, viz: Tynemouth, Milnton, Shields, East Chirton, East Preston

Monkton, Whitley (where they had a tower), Murton, Ersdon, Backworth, Seghill, Wolsington, Dissington, Elswick, Wylam, Hertford, Cowpen, Bebside, Weldon, Hauxley, Ambell, Eglington, Bewick, Lilburn, Flatworth, Middle Chirton, West Chirton. They had the lands of Royely and Denum, a tower at Benwell, and possessions at "Monkseiton, Denton, Whittingham, Billymille, and Framlington." They had the tythes of Gorbridge, Ovington, Wylam, Newburn, Dissington, Callerton, Elswick, Bothal, Warkworth, Ambell, Rothbury, and Wooler, in Northumberland; and of Hertnes and Middleton upon Tees, in Durham. Several messuages in Newcastle belonged to them, as also the impropriations and advowsons of the churches of Tynemouth, Woodhorn, Whalton, Bolam, Bewick, Eglington, Hartburn, Shilbottle, and Haltwesel, in Northumberland; and those of Conscliff, in Durham. The Benedictine monastery in Coquet Island was a cell to this house.

The advantageous military situation and strength, as well as its religious sanctity, procured to this place the honour of being visited by many royal and noble personages. The following relation shews the credulity and superstition of our forefathers:—"On the 20th of August, 1384, being the festival of St. Oswin's Passion, whilst a sailor was hewing a piece of wood for his ship, at Newcastle upon Tyne, he perceived blood to flow from it; but recollecting the holy day, desisted from his employment. A companion of his, disregarding the miracle, came and struck it again; but immediately blood gushed from every part that was cut, as if one's breast had been pierced with a sword. The matter was told to the clergy, who, with the laity, approved of the miracle; the wood was taken to Tynemouth, and placed by the body of the saint, in testimony of the miracle."

Tynemouth is mentioned among the castles of Northumberland in 1315; and about the year 1315; and about the year 1336, Henry Lord Percy gave 100 marks towards building a gate here. In a curious grant, made by King Richard II. (1379), to enable the prior and monks to repair their fortifications, the priory is

described as being, to the then king and his progenitors, "a certain fortified and walled place, for defence against the enemies of the kingdom." In Queen Elizabeth's time it had one master gunner, at eight-pence a day, and six inferior gunners, at sixpence a day each. Camden says of this place, that "it glories in a noble and strong castle, which, in the language of an old writer, 'is made inaccessible on the east and north sides by a rock over the ocean; but on the other sides, on account of its lofty situation, is easily defended.'" On the death of Sir Thomas Hilton, knight, in 1559, Sir Henry Percy, knight, was appointed by the Queen-captain of Tynemouth castle, it "being a place necessary to be well guarded and sene to." Henry, the 9th Earl of Northumberland, was born here, and also his brother Thomas, and his sister Lucy.

In 1642, the Earl of Newcastle put it in a posture of defence. He sent to it from Newcastle six great guns, and 300 soldiers, and threw up trenches, and built a fort to defend the haven; but in 1644, it was obliged, after sustaining a siege for some time, to surrender to General Leven and the Scotch army, when thirty-eight pieces of ordnance, and great store of ammunition and provisions fell into their hands. The garrison were allowed to march out with their baggage; but bound themselves to submit to the instructions of parliament. Before this surrender, the soldiers had suffered so much by the plague, that the chief officers had fled out of it.—Sir Arthur Hazlerigg was governor of Tynemouth castle in 1648; and when his deputy, Colonel Lilburne, revolted, he despatched Lieutenant-colonel Ashfield and Major Cobham, from Newcastle, with orders to storm the castle, and to put all found in arms to death. This was gallantly effected, Lilburne was decolated, and his head stuck upon a pole. In consequence of a letter received from King Charles II. in 1665, the common council of Newcastle voted £200 towards the reparation of the works of Tynemouth castle. In 1688, James II. created his natural son, James Fitz-James, Earl of Tynemouth.



The Church was parochial till 1659, when a part of its roof is said to have fallen in, and killed five or six soldiers. On account of its great decay, and the parishioners in the civil wars being often debarred the liberty of a free resort to it, another was begun to be built in 1659, and being afterwards finished, was consecrated in 1668 by Bishop Cosins. It is built on the north side of North Shields, where the Morpeth road joins that leading from Tynemouth. It is a plain edifice, and will hold about 2,000 persons. The cemetery at the old church, however, continues to be used.

John Wethemstede, abbot of St. Alban's, was a canon here. He was a learned and voluminous historian. On his preferment, he presented to the altar at Tynemouth a chalice of gold. John of Tynemouth, an eminent sacred biographer, who was born here, flourished about the year 1336.

The Priory stands east of the town, on a peninsula formed of stupendous rocks, on the north side of the mouth of the river Tyne, against which the heavy seas break with great vehemence and tumult. Wallis observes, "that its situation must have inspired the religious with a firm reliance on Him who is the Rock of Ages: the calms—the storms—the ships—must all, by turns, have furnished them to praise Him whose wonders are in the deep!" and remind and exhort seamen in danger to make their vows, and promise masses and gifts to the Virgin Mary, and St. Oswin, for their deliverance.

The approach to the priory is from the west, by a gateway of a square form, having, at the south-east corner, a circular exploratory turret; from this gateway, on each hand, a strong double wall extended to the rocks on the sea-shore, which, from their great height, was esteemed in former times inaccessible. The gate, with its walls, was fortified with a deep outward ditch, over which there was a draw-bridge, defended by moles on each side. The tower comprehended an outward and interior gateway; the outward gateway having 2 gates, at the distance of about six feet from each other, the inner of which was defended by a portcullis, and an open

gallery, now built up: the interior gateway was also strengthened by a triple gate. The space between the gateways, being a square of about six paces, was open above, to allow those on the top of the tower and battlements to annoy assailants who had gained the first gate. This tower had been modernized without any attention to military architecture, and converted into a barrack, capable of accommodating 240 men; but, during the late war, it contained at one time near 400 men.

On passing the gateway, the scene is strikingly noble and venerable; the whole enclosed area may contain about six acres; the view is crowded with august ruins; some fine arches of the priory are still standing; the most beautiful part of these remains is the eastern limb of the church, of elegant workmanship. On the south side, adjoining the wall which stands on the brink of the cliff, are several spacious vaulted chambers, one of which, it is supposed, was the kitchen, from the large extended fire-place; another the prison, with an aperture in the top of the vault, by which the miserable captive descended to his horrid dungeon." At the west extremity of the ruins is a gateway of circular arches, comprehending several members inclining inwards, and arising from pilasters. The area, within which has been the cloister, contains many modern tombs. The west gate of the abbey church is still standing. The east wall contains three long windows; the centre window, the loftiest, is near 20 feet high, richly ornamented with mouldings, some of rose-work, and others of lancette, as the figure is termed in heraldry, or zig-zag, a decoration common to all Saxon architecture. The divisions, or pillars, between the windows, are enriched with pilasters of five members, with highly-finished foliated capitals and cornices. Above the centre window is an oval one with like mouldings, and the openings of a gallery on each side. Part of the south side wall of the choir is also standing, illuminated with windows of like form as those to the east: the divisions, or pillars, between the larger windows, are decorated with pilasters of the same kind as those at the east end; in the di-



visions, or pillars, between the small windows, spring the groins of the arches which formed the roof, by their remains shewing they were ornamented with rich mouldings. The arches of the windows in this part are circular; the blank arches, which are thrown upon the wall beneath the windows, are pointed. The architecture, through the whole of this part of the building, is singularly light and beautiful.

Beneath the centre window, at the east end is a doorway, of excellent workmanship, conducting to the small but elegant oratory of St. Mary. On each side of the door is a human head, cut in a good style. The apartment within is 18 feet 6 inches in length, 12 feet 2 inches in breadth, and 8 feet in height to the spring of the arches. On the south side were three windows, on the north side two windows, and a circular window to the east, so elevated as to give place to an altar beneath. There are two inches for statues at the east end, a closet for the vessels for sacred offices, and a bason for the holy water. On each side of the window is the figure of a monk kneeling, and two of the emblematical animals commonly depicted with the Evangelists: the side walls are ornamented with pilasters, from whence spring the groins and arches of stone, which, in various intersections, form the roof; the joinings of which are enriched with circles of carved work, and the interstices of the roof are arched and constructed with thin bricks; the circles contain sculptures of the Divine personages with the apostles, of workmanship far from being despicable, and all the figures are in good preservation.—Round each sculpture is a circular belt, with a sentence in the old English characters, well raised, viz: *Sanct. Petrus ora P. nobis*, &c. each varied by the name of the personage to whom it is inscribed. The centre row consists of four circles: in one is the effigies of John the Baptist, with the like sentence; in a second, towards the west, the effigies of our Saviour, with a monk kneeling; in a third, to the east, the effigies of the Supreme, with a Lamb bearing the ensign; and in the fourth, a representation of the Last Judgment, with this

sentence. *In die judicii liberare nos.* Above the door is the effigy of our Saviour, with a globe in his hand, with *Morit P. Nobis* subscribed ; on each side of the door an emblematical figure, as to the east. There are two escutcheons, the dexter one charged with bearings of Vesey, a cross sable ; the sinister, the bearings of Brabant and Lucy quarterly. Many little ornaments are cut on the inferior roses on the arched works ; as crozlets, crescents, winged crosses, the old Saxon *a*, an emblem of sacred masonry, and the usual characters disposed over religious buildings, I. H. S.

St. Mary's chapel was occasionally used at funerals ; but, during the late war, was used as a powder magazine. The fine ornaments, however, were lately cleaned, and restored with great care, and attentively preserved.

These ancient and elegant remains have evidently been the work of different ages ; many of the arches being ornamented with the zig-zag, several of them semicircular, and others pointed. The west entrance, which is in the pointed style, seems to have been formed at a later period. The choir is executed in what is termed the pointed or English style of architecture. It has been built after a more elegant and noble plan than the old church. The transepts have been extended, and a highly decorated entrance has been formed in the wall of the old transept, leaving the plain Norman window above. This decorated English style prevailed from the time of Henry III. The Lady's Chapel has been built at a still later period than the choir, and is a beautiful specimen of the pure English. The whole length of this ancient and magnificent structure is 279 feet. The breadth of the nave, or the west and oldest part, inside is 26 feet ; and the length to the transept 126 feet. The old transept is 79 feet in length, and the side of the tower, which was square, 20 feet. The choir, or east end, is 31 feet 6 inches wide, but the length of the new transept has not yet been ascertained.

These impressive remains of sacred architecture have been destroyed with the most wanton and barbarous industry. Colonel Edward Villiers, who was governor

of this castle in 1665, and died in 1707, pulled down great part of the priory, for erecting the barracks, light-house, his own house near it, and other edifices; he likewise stripped off the lead, which, till then, had covered the church. The military arrangements made in later times have also contributed to hasten its entire destruction.

..... "O! it pities us  
To see those antique towers, and hallow'd walls,  
Split with the winter's frost, or mould'ring down—  
Their very ruins ruin'd!"

Within the gates of the castle are two dungeons, which had long been shut up. One of these places of solitary confinement was explored some years ago by an officer of the garrison; on one of the walls there is rudely engraved, probably with a nail—"JOHN READSHAW, 1715—17 WEEKS PRISONER." There are some curious caves in the rock on which the priory stood. One of them, on the north side of the precipice, is called by the town's people the *Gingler's Hole*, probably from having been the resort of some juvenile gamblers. It is now built up. There are perhaps several crypts and vaulted passages beneath the church; for in digging near the south side of the ruins of the priory in 1808, an arched tomb was discovered, with human bones and skulls of a large size. This chamber, which it was supposed had not been opened since the dissolution of the priory in 1539, was converted into a powder magazine. Behind the Canteen are buried, a row of stone coffins, which range north and south. The sexton, in 1819, struck his spade against a stone coffin, which, on examination, was found to contain a perfect skeleton, the bones of which were covered with leather, curiously cut and ornamented. An adjoining coffin also contained a skeleton without a head, and which was in like manner carefully defended and decorated with leather. In 1823, some workmen, who were digging in the ruins of the priory, overlooking Prior's Haven, discovered a flat stone, with an inscription, supposed to be Roman, which had been broken and wrought into the structure a

second time. Rude carving, pieces of columns, and stones belonging to groin arches, were also found in these ancient walls. The whole were rebuilt into the walls of the new powder magazine.

In 1775, the old Light House was taken down, and the building of the present one commenced. The revolving light is now considered the most luminous of any on the east coast of the island.

The town of Tynemouth is chiefly composed of one good street, with two or three smaller ones towards the north. The houses are in general well built, and some of them are even elegant. During the bathing season it is a place of fashionable resort, and all the inns and lodging-houses are filled with company. Being situated in a plentiful country, visitors may indulge themselves, and enjoy the advantages of bathing here more reasonably than at any other place of the kind. In other respects, this town has unquestionably many advantages, as a bathing situation, over others on this coast; the Prior's Haven being sheltered by an amphitheatre of lofty rocks, divided at the distance of two hundreds yards from each other, and about three hundred yards to their extremity, they run parallel, and form a fine opening to the great German Ocean: here you are never annoyed by the wind but when from the east, being defended from all the other points by the rocks. Tynemouth, as a bathing place, possesses many other attractions: the walks, particularly that in the Castle-yard, are dry and airy, and present many romantic and pleasing views.

At the northern extremity of the ridge on which the castle of Tynemouth is built, a battery of two guns was erected during the threats of invasion by France. The Barracks, which were built in 1758, for the accommodation of 1000 men, were, after the late war, disposed of by government, and now belong to the Duke of Northumberland.

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